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CIA Planned My Lai Massacre, Paper Says

Attack Called Deliberate Effort to Destroy an Entire Village as 'Lesson to the Enemy'

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Sunday Oklahoman says Pentagon sources have concluded that the 1968 My Lai massacre in South Vietnam "was planned and coordinated with the Central Intelligence Agency in a deliberate attempt to wipe out an entire village and its civilian population as a lesson to the enemy."

The Oklahoman, quoting unnamed sources, said that the assault, in which nearly 450 Vietnamese civilians were slain, was the second CIA-planned attack on the village.

It said the sources claimed that subsequent Army actions, including an inquiry and the placing of charges against 25 persons, were a coverup, "designed only to quiet public indignation . . . and were manipulated to avoid implicating either the CIA or military policy . . ."

The Oklahoman article was written by Jack Taylor, who has made a lengthy investigation of the My Lai massacre.

Anonymity Guaranteed

Taylor said his sources agreed to talk only after being guaranteed anonymity. He said they included five Army officers "who have been deeply involved in the My Lai affair and who have had access to secret documents about the massacre."

Two of the sources, Taylor said, were involved in the planning and

execution of the operation itself."

Taylor said the newspaper's investigation had turned up circumstantial evidence to support the sources' claim but had been unable to find "explicit proof in any documents available to the public."

The article said that evidence within the Army was circumstantial because virtually all of the My Lai planning was verbal and documentation would exist only within the CIA.

The article says the sources contend that the Army investigation headed by Lt. Gen. William R. Peers was a smokescreen and that Peers was purposely chosen for his "extensive CIA background . . . in order to insure that the investigation would steer clear of that aspect."

Army Closed Its Books

The Army said last September that it was closing its books on the My Lai affair. The only person ever convicted of criminal charges in the case was 1st Lt. William L. Calley Jr.; two officers and a sergeant received administrative penalties.

The Army Court of Military Review last month upheld Calley's 20-year sentence. His lawyers have said they will appeal to the Court of Military Appeals, the military equivalent of the Supreme Court, and President Nixon has said he personally will make the final review.

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM Ten O'Clock News

STATION WTTG TV

DATE March 23, 1973 10:00 PM

CITY Washington, D.C.

FINAL SEGMENT ON CIA

MAURY POVICH: Here with the fifth and final segment of a series on the Central Intelligence Agency is Metromedia's Walter Rodgers. Tonight, and in this final part, Rodgers interviews a man with some rather chauvinistic views of the CIA.

WALTER RODGERS: "The Secret Team" is a new book about the Central Intelligence Agency that will probably be published sometime next month. The author, Colonel Fletcher Prouty, is a retired Air Force officer who used to do much of the CIA's bidding at the Pentagon. He was in the Air Force working for the CIA. Today we'll tell you about some CIA agents who masquerade as military officers.

COLONEL FLETCHER PROUTY: There's a tremendous amount of overlap between CIA and the services. Now in a lot of it it's perfectly normal. A good intelligence officer in the Navy goes to the CIA for a two year tour and comes back afterwards a little wiser for his experience. But that, I don't think, is a return to your question [sic].

What they do is they create cover units, organizations that appear to be regular army units or regular navy units. And then those units live overseas. They live in Taiwan; they live in Libya, in the old days; in Greece, in England. And then those units which appear to be military units are really CIA units.

Now the military, after a while, begins to live with them, almost loses track of those units, and they get kind of a free run. But there're hundreds of them. Hundreds of them all over the world.

RODGERS: Do you think the day of technology has dawned to the point where the day of the cloak and dagger era is dying for the CIA?

COLONEL PROUTY: Oh, I think it's greater now than ever. Take something as popular as wiretapping. Okay? Most people visualize a wiretape like something hitched onto the telephone in their office or at home.

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That's an old system. What wiretapping really does with a computer behind it is go down to a main switch. If you go over here in Washington to 18th and H where the main telephone switch is, you can bug that switch and hear every conversation in half of Washington. But you need a computer to run it all out, to record it and then sort it. I mean wiretapping is a sophisticated game when you want to do it.

So, sure, the way they go, listening to all kinds of transmissions all over the world, in the total intelligence community is really fantastic today, nothing like ever done before. We're aided by missiles, with satellites, with cameras that have never been approached; with cameras that can do things that nobody's ever done, with film and lenses. I have all this in my book.

RODGERS: Who's better at this game, the CIA or the KGB, the Soviet intelligence agency?

COLONEL PROUTY: Well, I'm kind of proud of our gang. They're pretty good. And I think that it's a matter of which one we know about, you know. The CIA probably is a heck of a lot sharper with equipment, with electronics, with missiles, with aircraft and related equipment, and with men that have been in the business since way back in the days of OSS.

It's easier to write books about the KGB, because you can't prove it, and a man can use a lot of imagination. The CIA is a hard working crowd in this area, and I think they're tops.

RODGERS: Colonel Prouty is now an executive with AMTRAK, the nation's government owned rail service.

This is Walter Rodgers, Metromedia Television news.